

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SAM-01 /181 R

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APPROVED BY EB/ISM:MJDUX

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 031532

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EIND

SUBJECT: RUBBER: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: (A) LONDON 01917; (B) STATE 030460

1. FURTHER CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT SHOULD BE NOTED.
2. THE TRADE BILL IF PASSED IN ITS PRESENT FORM WOULD NOT "ELIMINATE ALL TARIFFS UP TO AND INCLUDING 5 PERCENT AD VALOREM." IT WOULD ALLOW THE NEGOTIATION OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL TARIFFS UP TO AND INCLUDING 5 PERCENT AD VALOREM (AS WELL AS REDUCTIONS IN HIGHER TARIFFS). THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS FOLLOWS TARIFF COMMISSION HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH WILL RESULT IN SOME ITEMS NOT BEING INCLUDED IN U.S. OFFERS.

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3. THE POINT IS MADE IN THE BRITISH REPORT THAT "THE BILL

PROVIDES FOR THE ABOLITION FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS OF ALL IMPORT DUTIES ON MATERIALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.-- THE BILL, IF PASSED IN ITS PRESENT FORM, DOES NOT SPECIFY THE PRODUCTS TO BE INCLUDED IN A U.S. GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME. WHILE AN INDICATIVE LIST OF PRODUCTS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE OECD IN 1970, THIS IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE SAME PRODUCTS WILL BE ON THE FINAL LIST. IN FACT TWO RUBBER PRODUCTS WERE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 1970 LIST. (TSUSA 446.05, NATURAL RUBBER, DRY FORM; AND TSUSA 446.20,

RUBBER, RECLAIMED). TARIFF COMMISSION HEARINGS MUST BE HELD ON ANY LIST OF PRODUCTS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE GSP. UNTIL THE TRADE REFORM ACT IS PASSED BY CONGRESS AND BECOMES LAW, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY WHAT WILL BE ON THE LIST OF PRODUCTS SUBMITTED TO THE TARIFF COMMISSION, WHAT ITS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE, OR WHAT ACTION THE PRESIDENT WILL TAKE TO ALLOW DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR A PARTICULAR LDC PRODUCT. IN ADDITION THERE IS A COMPETITIVE NEED FORMULA WHICH, IN THE NORMAL CASE, WOULD PREVENT APPLICATION OF THE GSP TO A PRODUCT FROM A COUNTRY IF EXPORTS OF THAT PRODUCT FROM THAT COUNTRY REACHED 25 MILLION DOLS. OR 50 PERCENT OF U.S. IMPORTS IN A GIVEN YEAR.

4. NECESSARY ADDITION OF THESE QUALIFICATIONS TO UK DRAFT PAPER WOULD IN OUR VIEW COMPLICATE IT AND STRENGTHENS CASE FOR DROPPING PAPER ENTIRELY. RUSH

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